IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Jerry M. Conley, Director

FEDERAL AID IN FISH RESTORATION

Job Performance Report

Project F-71-R-12



REGIONAL MANAGEMENT COORDINATION AND ASSISTANCE

Ву

William D. Horton, Fisheries Staff Biologist

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JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State of: <u>Idaho</u> Title: <u>Regional Management Coordination</u>

and Assistance

Project No. F-71-R-12

Subproject: II Job No.: 1

Period Covered: July 1, 1987 to June 30, 1988

ABSTRACT

The 1988 Idaho Angler Opinion Survey was mailed to 28,500 anglers to help assess goals and policies governing fish management for the next $10 \ \mathrm{years}$.

Fish habitat assessment was performed on the Big Wood River using instream flow methodologies. Instream flow appropriation requests were made to the Water Resource Board for Shoshone and Hayden creeks and the North Fork Payette River. Minimum instream flow water rights were approved by the Idaho Legislature for 9 segments of 5 streams.

Coordination of hydropower activities consumed approximately 80% of project staff time. Activities included 146 pieces of hydro-related correspondence, meetings, field reviews, personal contacts and phone calls too numerous to be enumerated.

An audit of 40 timber sales was conducted in cooperation with other entities to assess compliance and effectiveness of best management practices as they relate to water quality. An Antidegradation Implementation Plan was developed in cooperation with other entities to satisfy antidegradation requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act.

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OBJECTIVES

- 1. To develop statewide warmwater management programs that include guidelines for Regional Fishery Managers. Specifically, develop a warmwater fisheries introduction guideline handbook.
- To conduct an angler opinion survey providing information on angler use and management direction for Idaho's fishery resources.
- 3. To design and conduct instream flow studies, to train regional management staff and to represent the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) at hearings and public meetings regarding requests for instream flow water rights.
- 4. To evaluate hydropower development impacts upon fishery resources, set instream flows for projects, coordinate comments from regional managers to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and serve as the IDFG's contact with hydropower developers.
- 5. To develop summaries of requests for hatchery fish enhancement programs from regional managers.
- 6. To coordinate the evaluation of BLM and Forest Service land-use plans upon fish and fishery habitats with regional offices.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Submit results of 1988 Idaho Angler Opinion Survey to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission, and make the information available to the public.
- 2. Work with regional staff on an individual basis to provide training needs in field data collection, computer analysis and interpretation techniques for determination of instream flow needs.
- 3. Submit six requests for minimum instream flows during the next study period.
- 4. Continue to coordinate IDFG's hydropower activities.
- 5. Coordinate and work with other state agencies toward the development of a comprehensive, statewide plan for hydropower development.

TECHNIQUES USED

In an effort to gather the opinions of the Idaho angler, Fisheries staff personnel, in cooperation with statisticians and social scientists from the University of Idaho, College of Forestry, Wildlife, and Range Sciences, assembled 36 questions in a questionnaire that was mailed to 28,500 anglers.

Minimim instream flow water rights were presented to, and defended before, committees of the Idaho Legislature during the 1988 Legislative Session. Requests for minimum instream flow permits were submitted to the Water Resource Board in accordance with state water right application procedures.

Instream flow assessment training was provided to regional staff on an individual basis, combining field work and review of analytical techniques as recommended by the Western Energy Land Use Team's Instream Flow Group. Specific techniques and application are available from IDFG.

Habitat changes in the Big Wood River are being assessed through use of the Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) in an attempt to quantify changes in fish habitat caused by mechanical channel manipulation. Measurements done before the placement of channel modifiers and habitat structures will be compared to studies conducted after the channels stabilize.

Coordination of hydropower activities was conducted by phone, correspondence, interagency meetings, field reviews and individual personal contacts in accordance with FERC and IDFG hydropower policies and procedures.

Under the direction of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, the Idaho Department of Lands, and private industry, IDFG participated in an audit of Idaho forest practices. The purpose of the audit, which is conducted every four years, is to measure the compliance and effectiveness of the forest industry's best management practices (BMPs) as they relate to water quality.

IDFG personnel participated in development of an Antidegradation Implementation Plan for Idaho. This plan was developed through a cooperative state, federal, tribal, industry and public participation process to identify and achieve the goals of the antidegradation policy.

FINDINGS

Warmwater Management Programs

This activity was not handled under this project due to the time demand of hydropower coordination activities.

Angler Opinion Survey

The 1988 Idaho Angler Opinion Survey was mailed to 28,500 anglers in May, 1988 (Appendix A). Survey results are currently being tabulated, and a complete report will be issued in early 1989. Results will help determine goals and policies governing management of the fishery resource through the next 10 years.

Instream Flows

Table 1. Minimum instream flow water rights were approved by the Idaho Legislature for nine segments in five streams.

Stream	Water right	Stream reach
E. F. Rock Creek	11 cfs	Headwater springs to gage station
	20 cfs	Gage station to county bridge
S. F. Payette R.	212 to 1,100 cfs	Wilderness Boundary to Deadwood R.
	337 to 1,100 cfs	Deadwood River to Oxbow Bend
	337 to 400 cfs	Oxbow Bend
	337 to 1,100 cfs	Oxbow Bend to mouth
Payette River	407 to 1,350 cfs	South Fork to North Fork
Lightning Creek	49 to 84 cfs	East Fork to Clark Fork River
Grouse Creek	14 to 85 cfs	County road bridge to Pack River

Requests for minimum instream flows were submitted to the Water Resource Board for Shoshone and Hayden creeks, and the North Fork Payette River. Public information meetings were held for each stream, and formal hearings were conducted for Shoshone Creek and the North Fork Payette River.

IFIM data collected on the Big Wood River is being tabulated to quantify relative fish habitat in a reach near Hulen Meadows. This data will be compared to data collected in 1989 and later to assess changes in fish habitat caused by the placement of boulders and development of plunge pools.

Hydropower Coordination

Coordination of IDFG activities in response to hydropower proposals and the FERC licensing process was the most time-consuming activity for this project, accounting for approximately 80% of staff time.

The IDFG responded to hydropower development needs with countless site visits, meetings, consultations and telephone inquiries to coordinate the protection of fish, wildlife and riparian zones in affected areas. Documented responses included: (1) letters to developers, consultants and engineers on project activities; (2) letters to FERC in Washington, D.C., regarding preliminary permits, terms and conditions, modifications to licenses, changes or clarifications of articles in license applications, and scoping of environmental issues and environmental impact statements; (3) letters to FERC's Portland, Oregon, Regional Office in reference to noncompliance with terms and conditions as well as modifications to terms and conditions; and (4) letters or memorandums within the IDFG, or to other

state and federal agencies, either involved in coordinating or providing information on hydropower projects (Table 2). Letters regarding miscellaneous activities were written to a wide variety of persons or agencies for the coordination of these activities.

Hatchery Enhancement Coordination

This activity was not handled under this project due to the time demands of hydropower coordination activities.

Land-Use Plans Coordination

Forty timber sales throughout the state were evaluated to assess if BMP's were working to prevent or reduce degradation of water quality. Ten timber sales were evaluated for each entity that manages or uses forest lands. Those entities were the U.S. Forest Service, Idaho Department of Lands, private industrial and private nonindustrial. A report will be completed by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

Work on the Antidegradation Implementation Plan will continue in 1989. This plan, when implemented through appropriate statutes, regulations, interagency agreement, and agency policies, is intended to satisfy the antidegradation requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act. Implementation of this agreement is intended to: (1) maintain and protect the water quality of outstanding resource waters in the state from nonpoint sources of pollution, (2) maintain or improve the quality of impacted waters and (3) fully protect existing beneficial uses.

Table 2. Synopsis of correspondence prepared and submitted relating to small hydropower projects in Idaho from July 1, 1987 to June 30, 1988.

Number		
of	Written	
letters	to:	Subject
10	Secretary, FERC	Preliminary permit application by developer
25	Secretary, FERC; or Director, Portland Regional Office, FERC	Miscellaneous items: response on EIS, modifications and exemptions to terms and conditions and mitigation for terms and conditions, response to requests for information on PURPA, ECPA or CIAP, or general information responses
6	Secretary, FERC	Intervention to license application or transfer of license
14	Secretary, FERC	Compliance or noncompliance to terms and conditions, or modifications to terms and conditions
79	developer and consultants	Comments, information or consultation on project activities
6	state or federal legislators	Inquiries regarding projects from constituents
5	state government agencies	Interagency coordination of hydropower activities

Appendix A. Angler opinion survey mailed to 7% of licensed Idaho anglers, May, 1988.

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Boise, Idaho 83707 May 17, 1988

Dear Angler:

You will find on the enclosed pages the Idaho Angler Opinion Survey. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game conducts this survey every 10 years. Survey results will help determine the policies and goals governing the management of the State Fishery Resource through the next 10 year planning period.

Your help in determining Idaho's fishing future is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jerry M. Conley

Enclosure

Cecil D. Andrus / Governor Jerry M. Conley / Director



1988 IDAHO ANGLER OPINION SURVEY

1. What is your age?
14-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60+
2. What is your sex? Male Female
3. Did you fish in Idaho in 1987? Yes \square No \square
4. What is your permanent residence?
StateCounty
5. Does your spouse fish? Yes \square No \square Not married \square
6. How many children under age 14 are there living at your home?
7. How many children under age 14 living at home participate in fishing?
8. Do you belong to a sportsman organization?
9. Do you own a boat used for fishing in Idaho? Yes \(\sigma\) No \(\sigma\)
10. What type of Idaho license did you purchase in 1987?
RESIDENT NONRESIDENT
Hunt-Fish Combination Season Fishing —
Season Fishing 10-Day Fishing 1
3-Day Fishing 🔲
11. Do you feel the price you paid for your license to fish in Idaho waters in 1987 was:
Too High About Right Too Low
12. If you fished in Idaho during 1987, please list the three waters most frequently fished:
Water:County:
Water:County:
Water:County:
13. If you fished for trout in Idaho during 1987, do you believe the present statewide limit of 6 trout is:
Too Many About Right Too Few No Opinion
14. Would you like a portion of the 9-inch hatchery trout production converted into a few trout larger than
12 inches? Even knowing that one 12-inch trout will replace three 9-inch trout available for stocking in
Idaho waters?
Yes No No Opinion
15. How would you rate the quality of trout stocked by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game? Fxcellent Good Fair Poor No Opinion No Opinion
16. Increased fishing pressure has reduced wild trout populations in some Idaho streams. To maintain fishable populations would you favor:
Restrict the number or size of wild trout that could be kept?
Replace wild trout with hatchery trout?
No Opinion.

17.	Would you increased of kept would	catch r	have additional ates, even know estricted?	streams or ving that me	lakes mathods of	anaged to pro fishing and	ovide large numbers a	r than averag nd size of fis	e trout and h that could be
	Y	⁄es		No		No	Opinion		
18.			estrictions were (more than one				catch rate	s of trout on a	ı given water,
		Artific	ial tackle only.						
		Redu	ced bag limits.						
		Short	er seasons.						
		Size r	estriction.						
		No op	oinion.						
19.	Please indi less emph		ne programs you	ı feel shouk	d receive	more or	More	Less	No Change
	Hatchery tr	out pro	oduction for lake	es				۵	۵
	Protection	and er	nhancement of v	vild trout .					
	Warm wate	er fishe	eries						
	Hatchery tr	out pro	oduction for stre	ams					
	Habitat pro	tection	ı						
	Salmon an	d Stee	elhead						
20.	If you had t that stream		ase all of the tro	ut you caug	tht from y	our favorite t	rout strear	n, would you	continue to fish
	١	⁄es		No		No	Opinion		
21.			e could provide o release all the			atch trophy tro	out, would	you fish that s	stream or lake,
		⁄es		No		No	Opinion		
22.	describes y	our fe Shou Shou Shou	and tournament elings about tou ld remain unreg ld be regulated. Id be prohibited pinion.	ırnaments a ulated.			tho. Please	e check the bo	ox that best
23	. Would you than 15 inc restricted?	ches in	ome lakes or po length, even kr	nds in Idaho nowing that	o manag numbers	ed to provide and size of t	increased fish that co	catch rates fould be kept v	or bass greater vould be
	•	Yes		No		No	o Opinion		

24. If you fish for bass would keep if not	s in Idaho, what is the restricted?	smalle	st (a) larg	gemo	outh bass, (b) sma	llmouth bass you
	Largemouth				Smallmouth	
	6 inches				6 inches	
	8 inches				8 inches	
	10 inches				10 inches	
	12 inches				12 inches	
	14 inches				14 inches	
25. If you fish for bass	s in Idaho, what would	d you co	onsider a	qua	lity-size (a) largem	outh bass, (b) smallmouth bass?
	Largemouth				Smallmouth	
	12 inches				12 inches	
	14 inches				14 inches	
	16 inches				16 inches	
	18 inches				18 inches	
	20 inches				20 inches	
26. Do you feel the ld	aho Department of Fi th as location of lakes	ish and s and st	Game sh reams, p	nould ublic	d provide more info access areas, or t	ormation about available fishing types of fish available?
Yes		No			No Opinion	
27. Would you favor a may mean lower	allowing two daily bag catch rates?	j limits a	as a poss	essi	on limit for lakes a	nd reservoirs even though it
Yes		No			No Opinion	
have been estalis	s Fish Management F shed. Would you like t es would be impacted	to see v	its walley valleye in	e int trod	roductions to two r uced in additional (eservoirs where fisheries reservoirs even knowing trout
Yes		No			No Opinion	

29. Would you please check in the boxes below (1) all of the fish species you fished for in 1987, (2) the types of water you fished, (3) the modes of fishing (shore, boat, ice, float tube), and (4) the types of fishing gear you used. Please check all appropriate boxes.

1 Species Fished For in 1987		2 Water Typed Fished				3 Mode of Fishing				4 Method of Fishing			
·		Mountain Lakes	Lake/ Reservoir	Stream/ River	Shore/ Wade	Boat	Float Tube	lce Fish	Lure/ Spin	Bait	Fly	Other	
EXAMPLE: (Bass)											۵		
Yellow Perch													
Bluegill/Pumpkinseed							Q						
Crappie													
Smallmouth bass						Q							
Largemouth bass						Q							
Walleye	a												
Pike													
Steelhead													
Anadromous chinnok salmon													
Landlocked chinook salmon													
Cutthroat trout													
Rainbow trout													
Brook trout													
Buli trout (Dolly Varden)													
Brown trout													
Lake trout													
Kokanee/Coho													
Catfish													
Sturgeon													
Whitefish													
Nongame	Q												
30. Please list the three spec 31. Please name the <u>one</u> wa	•	•	•	•	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1		2		3			
32. Please name the <u>one</u> mo 33. Please name the <u>one</u> me	-	•											

34. Please check the box that best describes your satisfaction in 1987 while fishing the fishery types listed below and estimate the number of days spent fishing each fishery type:

Fishery Type	Days Fished	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Anadromous chinook salmon					
Landlocked chinook salmon				ū	
Steelhead					
High Mountain Lakes				O O	
Lakes and Reservoirs for trout					
Lakes and Reservoirs for kokanee				۵	
Lakes and Reservoirs for bass			Q	Q	
Lakes and Reservoirs for perch					
Lakes and Reservoirs for sunfish/crappie			C)		
Lakes and Reservoirs for walleye				0	Q
Lakes and Reservoirs for pike					Q
Lakes and Reservoirs for other					
Rivers and Streams for trout					Q
Rivers and Streams for whitefish					
Rivers and Streams for bass					
Rivers and Streams for other				0	
Sturgeon					

#2

35. In order to improve fishing opportunities, we need to know what factors are important to you in selecting where to fish. Please check one box for each factor indicating the importance you place on the factors shown in the table below.

Factor	Crucial	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Avoid angler crowding		a	۵		
Avoid other forms of recreationists			Q		
Boat launching facilities	Q			0	
Marina facilities	ū		۵		
Nearness to restaurants			a	0	
Nearness to bait and tackle shops		a			
Nearness to camping facilities				0	
Natural beauty of the area	0		Q		
Solitude					
Catch rate of keepable fish					
Catch rate of all fish	Q		Q		
Presence of favorite fish (species)			Q		
Chance to catch a large or trophy fish					
Chance to catch wild fish			Q		
Water quality	۵				Q
Chance to catch a variety of fish	Q				
Neamess to home (travel distance)	0				
Nearness to second home or cabin				۵	0
Familiarity with the area		Q	۵		
Accessibility				a	۵
Bank fishing opportunity	Q	Q			

36. We would like to know some of the reasons why you fish. Please check the box indicating the importance you place on each reason.

Reason	Crucial	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
To catch fish			0		O.
For relaxation				0	ū
To enjoy nature			0		O O
For companionship		Q		0	
For the challenge and excitement					
To be alone			a	0	
To improve fishing skill		ū	ū	0	ū
For exercise				0	
Family togetherness				0	
Chance to catch trophy fish			۵	0	
Competition with other anglers			۵	0	
Catch fish for consumption					

Submitted by:

William D. Horton Fisheries Staff Biologist

Approved by:

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